

SPELLING RULES

1. FLOSS RULE

A base word of one syllable ending in (f), (l), or (s) after one short vowel sound regularly ends in ff, ll, or ss.

ex. puff, nill, floss, kiss, bill

2. CHANGE THE BABIES NOT THE BOYS RULE.

A base word ending in y after a consonant changes y to i before any suffix except one beginning with i.

ex. baby + es= babies

copy + ed= copied

(boy does not change because there is a vowel before y, not a consonant.)

3. DROPPING RULE

A base word ending in silent e drops e before a suffix beginning with a vowel.

ex. hope + ing= hoping

complete + ing = completing.

4. DOUBLING RULE

When a base word ends in one vowel, one consonant, and one accent, double the final consonant when adding a vowel suffix.

ex. run + ing = running

begin + ing = beginning

5. RABBIT RULE

One medial consonant sound immediately after a short vowel in a two syllable base word is spelled with double consonants.

ex. lesson, puppet, letter, button, better, rubber

The consonant in a consonant-le final stable syllable doubles immediately after a short vowel in a two syllable word.

ex. little, puddle, hassle, nibble

Reliable Patterns for Spelling

There are reliable patterns in English. Knowledge of these patterns can help students choose the best spelling when there is more than one frequent spelling of a sound. These best bet spellings work most of the time.

I. When do you use k to spell the (k) sound, and when do you use c?

Before e, i or y, use k.

<u>keep</u>	<u>sketch</u>
<u>kept</u>	<u>skill</u>
<u>kiss</u>	<u>skit</u>
<u>king</u>	<u>sky</u>

Before a, o, u or any consonant, use c.

<u>cap</u>	<u>locate</u>
<u>cat</u>	<u>scope</u>
<u>cup</u>	<u>act</u>
<u>cramp</u>	<u>include</u>
<u>clap</u>	<u>scrap</u>

Exceptions: kangaroo, koala, skate, skunk

II. When do you use ck to spell the final (k) sound, and when do you use k?

After a short vowel in a one syllable base word, use ck.

<u>pick</u>	<u>sock</u>
<u>luck</u>	

After two vowels or a consonant, use k.

<u>peek</u>	<u>desk</u>
<u>book</u>	<u>milk</u>

III. When do you use tch to spell the (ch) sound in final position, and when do you use ch?

After a short vowel in a one syllable base word, use tch.

<u>match</u>	<u>sketch</u>
<u>etch</u>	<u>catch</u>
<u>blotch</u>	<u>witch</u>
<u>pitch</u>	<u>hutch</u>
<u>Dutch</u>	<u>Scotch</u>

After everything else, use ch.

<u>crunch</u>	<u>lunch</u>
<u>speech</u>	<u>pouch</u>
<u>porch</u>	<u>pouch</u>
<u>couch</u>	<u>starch</u>
<u>mulch</u>	<u>inch</u>

Exceptions: which, rich, much, such

IV. When do you use dge to spell the final (j) sound, and when do you use ge?

After a short vowel in a one syllable base word, use dge.

<u>badge</u>	<u>edge</u>
<u>ridge</u>	

After everything else, use ge.

<u>large</u>	<u>huge</u>
<u>change</u>	

V. When do you use oi to spell the (oi) sound, and when do you use oy?

In initial or medial position, use oi.

<u>oil</u>	<u>joint</u>
<u>ointment</u>	<u>coil</u>
<u>point</u>	<u>appoint</u>
<u>coin</u>	<u>boil</u>

In final position, use oy.

<u>joy</u>	<u>enjoy</u>
<u>toy</u>	<u>employ</u>
<u>boy</u>	<u>destroy</u>
<u>ploy</u>	<u>decoy</u>

Exceptions: royal, loyal, oyster.

VI. When do you use ou to spell the (ou) sound, and when do you use ow?

In initial or medial position, use ou.

<u>out</u>	<u>found</u>
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In final position, use ow.

<u>cow</u>	<u>brow</u>
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Singular to Plural Noun Guide Rules

A *singular noun* names one person, place, or thing.

A *plural noun* names more than one person, place, or thing.

- 1. Add *-s* to most words to make them plural.**

example: dog = dogs

- 2. Add *-es* to form plural of nouns that end in *ss*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh*.**

example: box = boxes

example: glass = glasses

example: beach = beaches

example: brush = brushes

- 3. If a noun ends in a consonant and *-y*, change the *-y* to *-i* and add *es* to form the plural.**

example: fly = flies

- 4. If a noun ends in *-f*, change the *-f* to a *-v* and add *-es*.**

example: calf = calves

Singular to Plural Noun Guide Rules

A *singular noun* names one person, place, or thing.

A *plural noun* names more than one person, place, or thing.

- 5. Add *-s* to most words to make them plural.**

example: dog = dogs

- 6. Add *-es* to form plural of nouns that end in *ss*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh*.**

example: box = boxes

example: glass = glasses

example: beach = beaches

example: brush = brushes

- 7. If a noun ends in a consonant and *-y*, change the *-y* to *-i* and add *es* to form the plural.**

example: fly = flies

- 8. If a noun ends in *-f*, change the *-f* to a *-v* and add *-es*.**

example: calf = calves